

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) An electrosurgical instrument having an end effector, the end effector configured to simultaneously provide radio frequency power and a fluid to treat tissue, the power sufficient to cause a dimensional change of the tissue, the end effector comprising:

at least one electrode;

at least one fluid outlet; and

a dimensional change sensor configured to grasp the tissue and move relative to the dimensional change of the tissue while having a grasp of the tissue.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:

the dimensional change sensor is configured to provide feedback to vary the radio frequency power according to the dimensional change of the tissue.

40. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:

the dimensional change sensor is configured to provide feedback to treat the tissue to a predetermined dimensional change.

41. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:

the dimensional change sensor is configured to provide feedback to measure the dimensional change.

42. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the dimensional change sensor is operatively associated with a device to provide a measurement of the dimensional change.
43. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the dimensional change sensor is operatively associated with means to provide a measurement of the dimensional change.
44. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the dimensional change sensor comprises a contact sensor.
45. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the dimensional change sensor comprises a shrinkage sensor; and
the dimension change of the tissue comprises a shrinkage of the tissue.
46. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 45 wherein:
the shrinkage sensor is configured to move relative to the shrinkage of the tissue.
47. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 45 wherein:
the shrinkage sensor is configured to provide feedback to vary the radio frequency power according to the shrinkage of the tissue.
48. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 45 wherein:
the shrinkage sensor is configured to provide feedback to treat the tissue to a predetermined shrinkage.
49. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 45 wherein:
the shrinkage sensor is configured to provide feedback to measure the shrinkage.

50. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 45 wherein:
the shrinkage sensor is operatively associated with a device to provide a measurement of the shrinkage.
51. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 45 wherein:
the shrinkage sensor is operatively associated with means to provide a measurement of the shrinkage.
52. (Withdrawn) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 further comprising:
a monopolar electrosurgical instrument.
53. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 further comprising:
a bipolar electrosurgical instrument.
54. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the at least one fluid outlet is positioned to provide the fluid onto the at least one electrode.
55. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the at least one fluid outlet is at least partially defined by the at least one electrode.
56. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the at least one fluid outlet is at least partially defined by a hole in the at least one electrode.
57. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the at least one fluid outlet is configured to provide the fluid to wet the at least one electrode.

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58. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the at least one electrode comprises a plurality of electrodes.
59. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the at least one fluid outlet comprises a plurality of fluid outlets.
60. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 37 wherein:
the at least one electrode comprises a first electrode and a second electrode; and
the at least one fluid outlet comprises a first fluid outlet and a second fluid outlet.
61. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 60 wherein:
the first fluid outlet is positioned to provide the fluid onto the first electrode; and
the second fluid outlet is positioned to provide the fluid onto the second electrode.
62. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical instrument of claim 60 wherein:
the first fluid outlet is configured to provide the fluid to wet the first electrode; and
the second fluid outlet is configured to provide the fluid to wet the second electrode.
- 63-65. (Cancelled)
66. (Previously Presented) An electrosurgical instrument having an end effector, the end effector configured to simultaneously provide radio frequency power and a fluid to treat tissue, the power sufficient to cause a dimensional change of the tissue, the end effector comprising a jaw and having:
at least one electrode;
at least one fluid outlet; and
a dimensional change sensor configured to grasp the tissue and move relative to the dimensional change of the tissue while having a grasp of the tissue.

67. (Previously Presented) An electrosurgical instrument having an end effector, the end effector configured to simultaneously provide radio frequency power and a fluid to treat tissue, the power sufficient to cause a dimensional change of the tissue, the end effector comprising a forceps and having:

at least one electrode;

at least one fluid outlet; and

a dimensional change sensor configured to grasp the tissue and move relative to the dimensional change of the tissue while having a grasp of the tissue.

68. (Currently Amended) An electrosurgical instrument having an end effector, the end effector configured to simultaneously provide radio frequency power and a fluid to treat tissue, the power sufficient to cause a dimensional change of the tissue, the end effector comprising:

at least one electrode;

at least one fluid outlet; and

a mechanical dimensional change sensor configured to grasp the tissue and move relative to the dimensional change of the tissue while having a grasp of the tissue, wherein the mechanical dimensional change sensor comprises a clamp structure to grasp the tissue.